

## **Focus Area 16: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health**

**Objective 16-10b** targets a reduction in very low birth weight (VLBW) births less than 1,500 grams to a rate of 0.9 per 100 live births (0.9 percent).

A total of 6,075 VLBW births were reported in 2000 at a rate of 1.14 percent based on data extracted from the Birth Statistical Master Files (Figure 16-10b, Table 16-10b). A total of 6,790 VLBW births were reported in 2005 at a rate of 1.24 percent, a statistically significant increase. California's VLBW birth rates are higher than the HP2010 objective, and the trend in rates is increasing away from the HP2010 target of 0.9 percent.

Data by race-ethnicity show that the highest VLBW birth rates were found for African Americans/Blacks (2.77 percent in 2000 and 3.02 percent in 2005), and a statistically significant increase was found for Hispanic/Latino VLBW rates (from 1.03 percent in 2000 to 1.14 percent in 2005). No significant trends in VLBW rates were found for any other racial or ethnic population, and the HP2010 objective is not being achieved for any racial or ethnic group as of 2005.

Examined by age of the mother, VLBW birth rates were highest for those under 15 years (2.78 percent in 2005), followed by those aged 35 years and older (1.59 percent in 2005). The HP2010 objective of 0.9 percent was not being achieved for any maternal age group as of 2005, and no significant trends were found.

No significant differences were found in VLBW birth rates between female and male infants, although a statistically significant increase was found in VLBW rates for male infants from 1.14 percent in 2000 to 1.22 percent in 2005. The HP2010 objective is not being achieved for infants of either gender.

For more information on very low birth weight (VLBW) in California, visit the Maternal and Child Health Branch Web site at:

<http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 16-10b please visit:

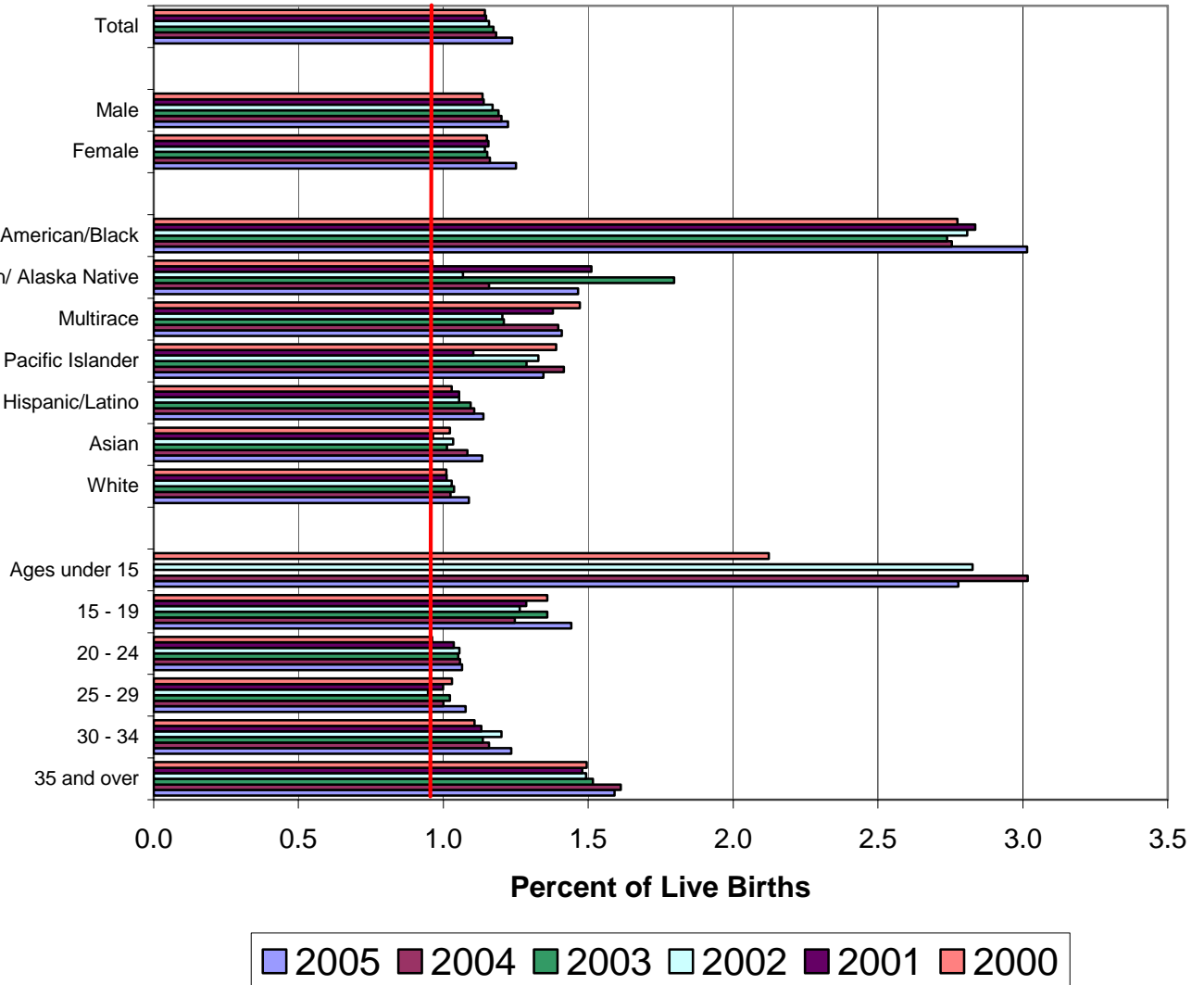
[http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#\\_Toc494699661](http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#_Toc494699661)

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od16.htm#riskfactors>

**Figure 16-10b**  
**Very Low Birth Weight (less than 1,500 grams) Live Births**  
**California, 2000-2005**

Healthy People 2010 objective = 0.9



**Table 16-10b: Very Low Birth Weight Births**  
**California, 2000-2005**

HP2010 Objective 16-10b	2000					2001				
	VLBW <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>	VLBW <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Healthy People 2010 Target</b>	<b>0.9</b>					<b>0.9</b>				
<b>Statewide Total</b>	6,075	531,285	1.14	1.11	1.17	6,054	527,371	1.15	1.12	1.18
<b>Race-Ethnicity of Mother</b>										
African American/Black	896	32,302	2.77	2.59	2.96	878	30,965	2.84	2.65	3.02
American Indian/Alaska Native	19	1,975	0.96	0.53	1.39	30	1,986	1.51	0.97	2.05
Asian	602	58,876	1.02	0.94	1.10	554	57,443	0.96	0.88	1.04
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	33	2,376	1.39	0.92	1.86	26	2,355	1.10	0.68	1.53
Hispanic/Latino	2,655	257,958	1.03	0.99	1.07	2,751	260,996	1.05	1.01	1.09
White	1,699	168,233	1.01	0.96	1.06	1,657	163,777	1.01	0.96	1.06
Multirace	92	6,254	1.47	1.17	1.77	88	6,388	1.38	1.09	1.67
<b>Maternal Age Group</b>										
Under 15	19	895	2.12	1.17	3.08	15	810	DSU	-----	-----
15 - 19	752	55,373	1.36	1.26	1.46	681	52,966	1.29	1.19	1.38
20 - 24	1,179	122,591	0.96	0.91	1.02	1,276	123,227	1.04	0.98	1.09
25 - 29	1,438	139,615	1.03	0.98	1.08	1,363	136,439	1.00	0.95	1.05
30 - 34	1,412	127,502	1.11	1.05	1.17	1,447	127,946	1.13	1.07	1.19
35 and over	1,275	85,309	1.49	1.41	1.58	1,272	85,983	1.48	1.40	1.56
<b>Sex of Child</b>										
Female	2,982	259,217	1.15	1.11	1.19	2,982	258,121	1.16	1.11	1.20
Male	3,089	272,061	1.14	1.10	1.18	3,068	269,237	1.14	1.10	1.18

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2000-2001.

NOTES: <sup>1</sup> Very low birth weight (VLBW) defined as live birth weighing less than 1,500 grams.

<sup>2</sup> Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths.

<sup>3</sup> Rate per 100 live births (percent).

<sup>4</sup> Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.)

DSU Data Statistically Unreliable based on small number of events; Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 23.0 percent.

**Table 16-10b: Very Low Birth Weight Births, continued**  
**California, 2000-2005**

HP2010 Objective 16-10b	2002					2003				
	VLBW <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>	VLBW <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Healthy People 2010 Target</b>	<b>0.9</b>					<b>0.9</b>				
<b>Statewide Total</b>	6,127	529,241	1.16	1.13	1.19	6,344	540,827	1.17	1.14	1.20
<b>Race-Ethnicity of Mother</b>										
African American/Black	837	29,806	2.81	2.62	3.00	800	29,211	2.74	2.55	2.93
American Indian/Alaska Native	21	1,966	1.07	0.61	1.53	36	2,004	1.80	1.21	2.38
Asian	614	59,376	1.03	0.95	1.12	623	61,525	1.01	0.93	1.09
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	32	2,411	1.33	0.87	1.79	31	2,409	1.29	0.83	1.74
Hispanic/Latino	2,772	263,022	1.05	1.01	1.09	2,952	269,691	1.09	1.06	1.13
White	1,661	161,470	1.03	0.98	1.08	1,690	162,920	1.04	0.99	1.09
Multirace	82	6,813	1.20	0.94	1.46	86	7,112	1.21	0.95	1.46
<b>Maternal Age Group</b>										
Under 15	21	743	2.83	1.62	4.04	13	710	DSU	-----	-----
15 - 19	634	50,200	1.26	1.16	1.36	670	49,330	1.36	1.26	1.46
20 - 24	1,299	123,056	1.06	1.00	1.11	1,302	123,815	1.05	0.99	1.11
25 - 29	1,300	137,236	0.95	0.90	1.00	1,438	140,556	1.02	0.97	1.08
30 - 34	1,565	130,367	1.20	1.14	1.26	1,532	134,809	1.14	1.08	1.19
35 and over	1,308	87,639	1.49	1.41	1.57	1,389	91,607	1.52	1.44	1.60
<b>Sex of Child</b>										
Female	2,961	258,855	1.14	1.10	1.19	3,040	263,882	1.15	1.11	1.19
Male	3,163	270,378	1.17	1.13	1.21	3,297	276,933	1.19	1.15	1.23

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2002-2003.

NOTES: <sup>1</sup> Very low birth weight (VLBW) defined as live birth weighing less than 1,500 grams.

<sup>2</sup> Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths.

<sup>3</sup> Rate per 100 live births (percent).

<sup>4</sup> Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.)

DSU Data Statistically Unreliable based on small number of events; Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 23.0 percent.

**Table 16-10b: Very Low Birth Weight Births, continued**  
**California, 2000-2005**

HP2010 Objective 16-10b	2004					2005					2000-2005 Trend <sup>5</sup>
	VLBW <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>	VLBW <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>	
<b>Healthy People 2010 Target</b>			<b>0.9</b>					<b>0.9</b>			
<b>Statewide Total</b>	6,440	544,635	1.18	1.15	1.21	6,790	548,700	1.24	1.21	1.27	Sig. +
<b>Race-Ethnicity of Mother</b>											
African American/Black	790	28,679	2.75	2.56	2.95	867	28,756	3.02	2.81	3.22	ns
American Indian/Alaska Native	24	2,073	1.16	0.69	1.62	31	2,116	1.47	0.95	1.98	ns
Asian	673	62,122	1.08	1.00	1.17	700	61,735	1.13	1.05	1.22	ns
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	36	2,543	1.42	0.95	1.88	34	2,528	1.34	0.89	1.80	ns
Hispanic/Latino	3,046	275,188	1.11	1.07	1.15	3,220	282,823	1.14	1.10	1.18	Sig. +
White	1,629	158,992	1.02	0.97	1.07	1,696	155,900	1.09	1.04	1.14	ns
Multirace	100	7,162	1.40	1.12	1.67	104	7,382	1.41	1.14	1.68	ns
<b>Maternal Age Group</b>											
Under 15	21	696	3.02	1.73	4.31	21	756	2.78	1.59	3.97	n/a
15 - 19	620	49,737	1.25	1.15	1.34	721	50,017	1.44	1.34	1.55	ns
20 - 24	1,314	124,309	1.06	1.00	1.11	1,337	125,529	1.07	1.01	1.12	ns
25 - 29	1,416	141,608	1.00	0.95	1.05	1,545	143,446	1.08	1.02	1.13	ns
30 - 34	1,558	134,578	1.16	1.10	1.22	1,651	133,741	1.23	1.17	1.29	ns
35 and over	1,511	93,707	1.61	1.53	1.69	1,515	95,211	1.59	1.51	1.67	ns
<b>Sex of Child</b>											
Female	3,091	266,371	1.16	1.12	1.20	3,353	268,110	1.25	1.21	1.29	ns
Male	3,342	278,305	1.20	1.16	1.24	3,433	280,578	1.22	1.18	1.26	Sig. +

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2004-2005.

NOTES: <sup>1</sup> Very low birth weight (VLBW) defined as live birth weighing less than 1,500 grams.

<sup>2</sup> Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths.

<sup>3</sup> Rate per 100 live births (percent).

<sup>4</sup> Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.)

<sup>5</sup> Statistically significant increase (Sig. +); No significant trend (ns);

n/a not enough reliable data points to test for significance of trend.